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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

STEVE ISRAEL

Third District, New York

April 17, 2014

Mr. Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin
President of the Russian Federation
Ilyinka 23
Moscow 103132
The Russian Federation

Dear President Putin:

Earlier today, it was reported that leaflets were distributed, calling on all Jews in the city of Donetsk, Ukraine, to register with local authorities, along with declarations of their wealth. These inflammatory leaflets further went on to slander the Jewish community in Donetsk and call into question their political loyalties.

As a student of history, you are no doubt aware that this disgusting event bears a striking resemblance to actions taken by the Nazis in Ukraine during the Second World War. In particular, the timing of this stunt, along with its anti-Semitic canard about divided loyalties, is distasteful to Americans, the people of Ukraine and Russia, who suffered grievously during the Nazi genocide, and to civilized people around the world.

Mr. President, you have routinely called for the human rights of the people of Ukraine to be respected. Yet, the fact that this blatant and ominous demonstration of anti-Semitism, the kind of which has not been seen in Europe since the dark days of the 1940s, has taken place without so much as a word of protest from you is deeply disheartening. If you are as concerned about the people of Ukraine as you have made yourself out to be, I strongly urge you to follow the leadership of the United States in condemning this pathetic stunt in no uncertain terms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Israel".

STEVE ISRAEL
Member of Congress